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Secretary Norton Announces New Appointments to BLM Resource Advisory Council

Interior Secretary Gale Norton recently announced the appointment of five new members to North and South Dakotas' citizen-based Resource Advisory Council, which advises the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues.

"I welcome our new members to the Resource Advisory Council and commend them for their commitment," Norton said. "I look forward to their advice and recommendations as we work together to improve the health and productivity of our public lands."

The BLM's Resource Advisory Councils (RACs), composed of citizens chosen for their expertise in natural resource issues, help the agency carry out its stewardship of 261 million acres of public lands. The Bureau, which manages more land than any other federal agency, has 24 RACs across the West, where most BLM-managed land is located.

"The work of the Resource Advisory Councils is a prime example of cooperative conservation," Norton noted. "This unique partnership strengthens our management efforts and helps to promote citizen stewardship."

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BLM Director Kathleen Clarke said, “RAC members come from a variety of backgrounds and bring a wide range of perspectives to each of our councils. This diversity results in a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to manage the public lands for multiple uses.” The BLM, an agency of the Department of the Interior, is responsible for managing these various uses – such as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production – while conserving the land’s natural, historical, and cultural resources.

Below are the newly appointed members of the Dakotas RAC and the interest they represent. Information about upcoming RAC meetings will be announced as soon as it becomes available.

Eric Hunt (off-highway vehicle use)
Gerald Schlekeway (environmental)
Stanley Kohn (environmental)
Carol Pavel (wild horses and burros)
Bill Bowman (elected official)

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